

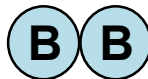
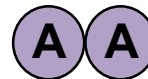




Old McDonald Had A Farm

     
OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM, E-I- A-I- O! AND ON THIS FARM

      
HE HAD A COW, E-I- E-I- O! WITH A MOO-MOO HERE AND A

     
MOO-MOO THERE, HERE A MOO, THERE A MOO, EVERYWHERE A MOO-MOO,

    
OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM, E-I- E-I- O!

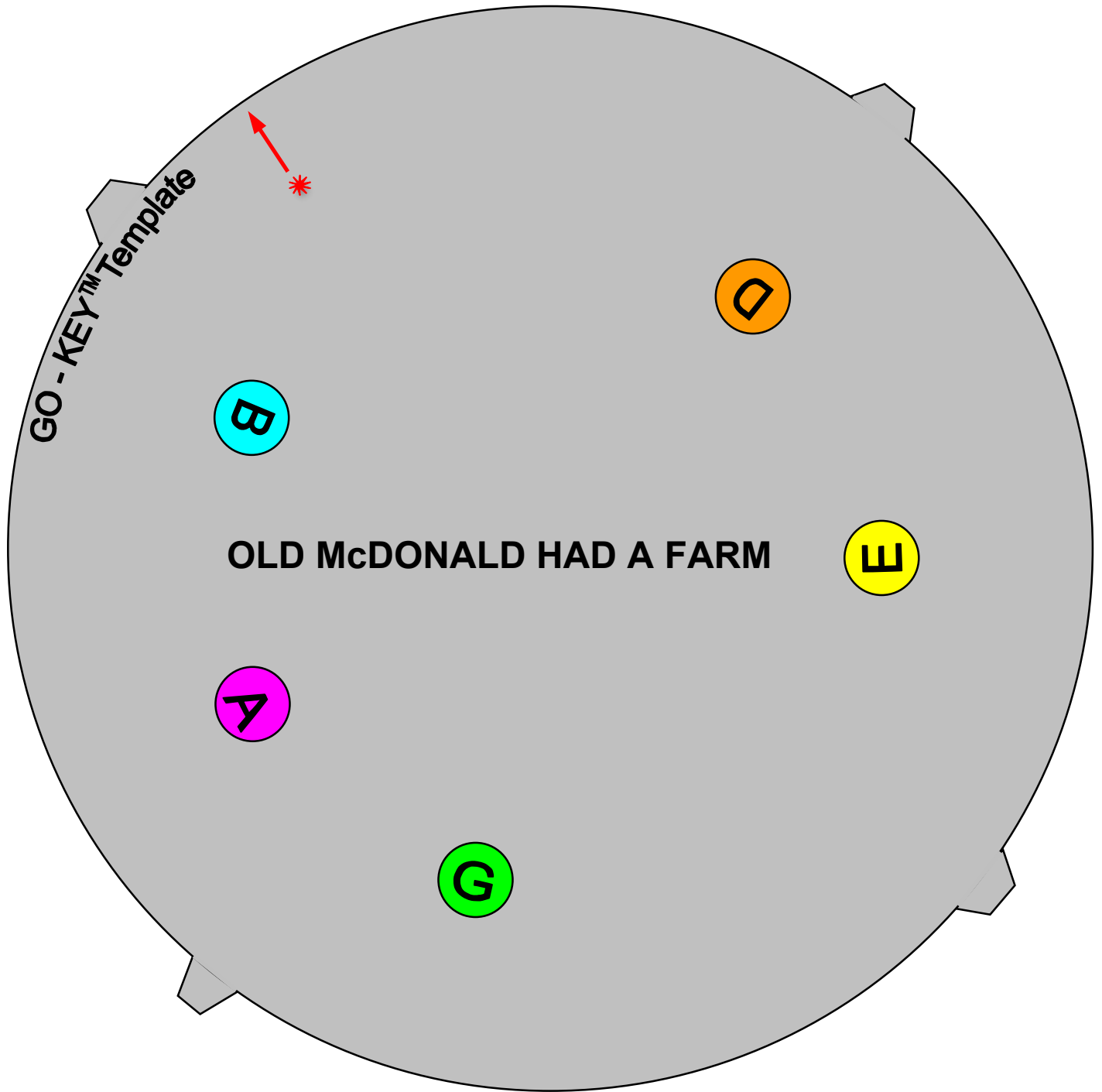
Older Lyrics

In the 1917 book *Tommy's Tunes*, a collection of World War I era songs by F. T. Nettleingham, the song "Ohio" has quite similar lyrics—though with a slightly different farmer's name and refrain:

Old Macdougall had a farm in Ohio-i-o,
And on that farm he had some dogs in Ohio-i-o,
With a bow-wow here, and a bow-wow there,
Here a bow, there a wow, everywhere a bow-wow.

This version lists seven species of animal:

- some dogs (bow-wow)
- some hens (cluck cluck)
- some ducks (quack quack)
- some cows (moo moo)
- some pigs (grunt grunt)
- some cats (meow meow)
- and a donkey (hee-haw)



History and Origin

"Old MacDonald Had a Farm" is a children's song and nursery rhyme about a farmer named MacDonald (sometimes known as "McDonald" or "Macdonald") and the various animals he keeps on his farm. Each verse of the song changes the name of the animal and its respective noise. In many versions, the song is cumulative, with the animal sounds from all the earlier verses added to each subsequent verse. For example, the verse uses a cow as an animal and "moo" as the animal's sound. It has a Roud Folk Song Index number of 745.

The Traditional Ballad Index consider the Tommy's Tunes version to be the earliest known version of "Old Macdonald Had a Farm", though it cites numerous variants, some of them much older. Two of these variants were published in Vance Randolph's *Ozark Folksongs* in 1980. One was "Old Missouri", sung by a Mr. H. F. Walker of Missouri in 1922, a version that names different parts of the mule rather than different animals:

Old Missouri had a mule, he-hi-he-hi-ho,
And on this mule there were two ears, he-hi-he-hi-ho.
With a flip-flop here and a flip-flop there,
And here a flop and there a flop and everywhere a flip-flop
Old Missouri had a mule, he-hi-he-hi-ho.

A British version of the song, called "The Farmyard, or The Merry Green Fields," was collected in 1908 from a 74-year-old Mrs. Goodey at Marylebone Workhouse, London, and published in Cecil Sharp's *Collection of English Folk Songs*.

Up was I on my fa-ther's farm
On a May day morn-ing ear-ly;
Feed-ing of my fa-ther's cows
On a May day morn-ing ear-ly,
With a moo moo here and a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo, Here a pret-ty moo.
Six pret-ty maids come and gang a-long o' me
To the mer-ry green fields of the farm-yard.

Perhaps the earliest recorded member of this family of songs is a number from an opera called *The Kingdom of the Birds*, published in 1719-1720 in Thomas D'Urfey's *Wit and Mirth, or Pills to Purge Melancholy*:

In the Fields in Frost and Snows,
Watching late and early;
There I keep my Father's Cows,
There I Milk 'em Yearly:
Booing here, Booing there,
Here a Boo, there a Boo, every where a Boo,
We defy all Care and Strife,
In a Charming Country-Life.

Recordings and appearances in media:

- The oldest version listed in Patterson Trio's "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," released on the Edison label in 1925.
- Frank Sinatra (*Capitol*, 1960)
- Elvis Presley (in his movie *Double Trouble*)
- Nat King Cole, and Ella Fitzgerald (on her 1967 Verve album *Whisper Not*)
- Bing Crosby included the song in a medley on his album *Join Bing and Sing Along* (1959)
- In a 1952 campaign ad for Adlai Stevenson with altered lyrics promoting the Stevenson campaign's appeal to farmers
- The song is played (with some cast participation) in the 1951 movie *The Lavender Hill Mob*
- As of September 2018, an animated video with the song, created by ChuChu TV, has over 1.0 billion views on YouTube